

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 964

By Davis

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the employees and volunteers of the Communities in Schools Johnson City for their laudable service to the children of Johnson City.

WHEREAS, it is proper that this legislative body formally acknowledge and thank the outstanding organizations in our State whose employees and affiliates, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization is Communities in Schools Johnson City (CISJC), whose employees and volunteers have assiduously provided services to the at risk children of Johnson City for the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, a national organization established in 1977, Communities in Schools, Inc. (CIS) is dedicated to helping students stay in school until graduation and providing the necessary resources to accomplish that goal; currently CIS, Inc. is present on 2,500 school campuses in 32 states and serves 2 million students; and

WHEREAS, as a part of CIS, Inc. CISJC has raised the bar for students in Johnson City; at the time of its inception, the city and county schools in Johnson City had a combined drop out rate of 27 percent and 324 city students left school; as an indication of the program's success, during the past year only one student left the school system before graduation; and

WHEREAS, harvesting its resources from the community in order to meet the needs of at risk children in the schools, CISJC has sponsored many valuable programs addressing various issues; examples of such programs include a Mentor/Tutor program which improves academics; Character Counts! which is aimed at building character skills; and numerous other programs dealing with improving attendance incentives; focusing on social improvements,

health issues, career choices and education; encouraging community and volunteer service; and establishing partnerships and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, last year CISJC served more than 3,000 children and with the help of 140 volunteers, generated \$80,000 of revenue for in-kind services to help children succeed in school; and

WHEREAS, the mission of CISJC is to champion the connection of needed community resources with schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life and their main goal in fulfilling this mission is to develop school as a focal point for delivery of human services to youth and families in a holistic setting; and

WHEREAS, the leaders, staff, and volunteers of CISJC are committed to reaching out to the area youth, and they are dedicated to the five basic principles for achieving success; these five principles consist of building a personal one-on-one relationship between the student and a caring adult; providing a safe place to learn and grow; helping to give a healthy start and a healthy future; helping the student find and develop a marketable skill that can be used upon graduation; and offering the students a chance to give back to peers and community; and

WHEREAS, through the diligent efforts of the leaders, staff, and volunteers of CISJC, many at risk youth in Johnson City have experienced a life-changing transformation and have achieved success in their academic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the remarkable individuals at CISJC truly epitomize the volunteer spirit which is characteristic of Tennesseans and should be specially recognized for their dedication to the children of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the employees and volunteers of the Communities in Schools Johnson City for their laudable service to the children of Johnson City, salute their commitment to this State, and extend to them our wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy